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THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU REDUCES BURDENS ON LICENSEES BY ELIMINATING TWO CONDITIONS FROM SATELLITE EARTH STATION LICENSES

As part of its continuing effort to eliminate any unnecessary burdens on licenses, the International Bureau (Bureau) announces it no longer will require licensees to meet two conditions included in many earth station licenses. The two license conditions (Conditions 2810 and 5011) require earth station licensees to keep the "precise frequencies" that they use on file with the Bureau and to update the Bureau within seven days if they change the "precise frequencies" in use. These conditions also will not be included in future earth station licenses.

Each earth station license contains a range of frequencies in which a licensee is authorized to operate. For example, a "C-band" license will authorize an operator to transmit in the 5925-6425 MHz frequency band. Nevertheless, the Bureau has required licensees to specify precise frequencies within this range, and to inform the Commission each time that they change those frequencies. By requiring this data, the Bureau hoped to facilitate the resolution of any radiofrequency interference complaints that earth station licensees might bring before it. During the past decade, however, earth station licensees have brought only a handful of interference disputes to the Commission for resolution. Moreover, the Commission has been able to resolve the few cases before it without using the detailed frequency information.

Consequently, the Bureau no longer will include Conditions 2810 and 5011 in new, modified, or renewal earth station licenses. Further, the Bureau no longer will require earth station operators holding licenses containing these conditions to notify the Bureau if they change the "precise frequencies" they are using. Eliminating these conditions will relieve licensees of an unnecessary burden, without affecting the Commission's ability to resolve interference disputes when required to do so. The Bureau reserves the right to request information from licensees when warranted, pursuant to Sections 25.111(a) and 25.273(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 25.111(a), and 25.273(b).